Under the ISOPOM, the States are provided flexibility in implementation of the programmes based on regionally differentiated approach to promote crop diversification and provide focused attention. An amount of Rs. 194.00 crore has been provided for the year 2007-08 for this purpose.

Bridge over Brahmaputra

*230. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fourth bridge over Brahmaputra in Bogibeel in the Dibrugarh district, Assam was supposed to be completed in the year 2004, subsequently it was changed to 2009 and at present it is expected to be completed by 2012;

(b) what is the reason behind this slow pace;

(c) whether any tender has been finalized as yet for any stage; and

(d) when is the work expected to start and to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Bogibeed in Assam was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in Sept., 1997 at an abstract cost of Rs. 942 crore with cost sharing between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road-Transport and Highways and the work was to be completed in a period of 5 years. Further, revised cost of bridge as per detailed survey and preliminary design was estimated as Rs. 1767 crore with share of Ministry of Railways as Rs. 1109 crore and that of Department of Road Transport and Highways (DORTH) as Rs. 658 crore. The then Prime Minister inaugurated the commencement of work in April, 2002 with a targeted completion period of 6 years. However, the project is progressing as per the availability of funds through Railway's Gross Budgetary Support only. An expenditure of Rs. 700 crore had been incurred till March 2007 and an outlay of Rs. 249.45 crore has been provided in the year 2007-08. The project was declared as "National Project' in Dec' 06 and mode of Hiding has been approved in Aug.' 07 only.

(c) and (d) Tender for collection of bulders for north and south banks, protection works for main bridge/link lines and earthwork, minor and major bridges, Railway Overbridges (ROBs), station building, ballast supply and track work for link lines has been awarded and the works taken up. Tenders for sub-structure of main bridge are under process.

Decrease in production due to soil erosion of agricultural land

†*231. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the possibilities of decrease in production rate due to soil erosion of agricultural land in the country have been assessed;

(b) if so, the estimated average annual decrease in production rate in the country, as a result thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.